

• COLORADO RIVER • AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Vol. VIII

NOVEMBER 30, 1941

No. 11

Skilled Workers Trained on Aqueduct Now Advance Nation's Defense Efforts

The vital contribution of the Colorado River Aqueduct to national defense through its provision of an abundant and dependable water supply for the South Coastal area has been outlined in previous issues of the NEWS. It has been shown that most of this region's great aircraft and shipbuilding plants, with their scores of thousands of employees drawn from every quarter of the United States, are actually located in cities within The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

All classes of defense industries and greatly expanded residential communities located within the boundaries of the District are assured of an unfailing supply of good water for industrial and domestic use, and the assurance of this basic supply has been a compelling magnet in bringing this development to the District area.

Two of Southern California's most important military training centers are March Field and Camp Haan. Faced
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Military Camps to Get District Service

Soft and filtered water from the Colorado River Aqueduct is scheduled soon to flow into March Field and Camp Haan to supply the needs of the thousands of air force and anti-aircraft gunnery soldiers stationed at these two military posts.

In line with a contract whereby the District Board of Directors has agreed to sell Aqueduct water to the Army for use in the two military reservations, contractors this month launched actual con-
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A recent downstream view of Parker Dam showing the rising superstructure of the power plant, at upper left. When this photo was made the dam was discharging Colorado River water at the rate of 32,000 cubic feet per second.

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306 WEST THIRD ST.
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Published monthly in the interest of Field and Office Workers on the Colorado River Aqueduct, and for the information of all other citizens of the Metropolitan Water District.

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Water for Army

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struction of an eleven-mile pipe line and a pumping plant that will take water from the headworks at Lake Mathews and deliver it to a softening and filtration plant, and thence to a reservoir for distribution within March Field and Camp Haan.

It has been indicated that up to 8,000,000 gallons of water a day will be required to meet the needs of the two Army camps. The eleven miles of steel pipe line that will deliver the water from Lake Mathews to the camps will be of 24 and 20-inch diameter. To reach the higher elevation of the camps there is also being constructed a pumping plant, located near the Lake Mathews outlet.

At the time the Army, about a year ago, authorized the establishment of Camp Haan in the Riverside area and immediately adjacent to March Field, arrangements were made to obtain a water supply from the underground basins in that general vicinity. Use of water from this source, however, was vigorously protested by residents in the San Bernardino and Riverside territory, who stated that diversion of water from their basins would seriously deplete the limited supply upon which thousands of acres of citrus land now depend, and have long standing water rights.

Construction of the works to be used in the delivery of Aqueduct water to the camps is now being carried forward by two contracting firms. Building of the pipe lines and pumping plant is being handled by the firm of Morrison-Knudsen of Los Angeles on its bid of \$523,944.00. Building of a softening and filtration plant, to be located within one of the camps, has been awarded to A. C. Lo Presti and the Ocean Shore Iron Works of San Francisco on their bid of \$198,455.00.

Construction works are scheduled to be completed within about two months, and Aqueduct water delivery is expected to start early in February.

Aid Defense

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with a critical water supply problem in these two camps, the Army turned to the District, and, by authority of the District Board of Directors, Aqueduct water is to be made available to these two camps in sufficient quantity to meet all present and future requirements.

In addition to its fundamental purpose of providing an abundant and dependable water supply, the Aqueduct during the course of its construction served as an enormous training school for practically every class of skilled labor. As a result, the giant water supply system has proved to be of great service to Southern California and the country as a whole in still another way.

The major part of Aqueduct construction work was carried forward during the years from 1933 to 1940, inclusive. During those years the District gave constructive, gainful employment to approximately 38,000 men directly on the Aqueduct during a period when unemployment was this country's chief problem. Despite the vast number of unemployed men, however, there was a serious deficiency of skilled workmen. This problem was made all the more acute because of the District's determination to give its employment benefits, first of all, to bona fide residents of the thirteen District cities. As a result, it became necessary to train a good share of the skilled workmen on the Aqueduct job. Thousands of young men with little or no previous

experience in the field of skilled labor were developed into expert craftsmen on the big job.

Aqueduct construction work was being completed just at the time the country was setting under way its extensive defense program. Aircraft, naval shipbuilding and all manner of defense projects were in urgent need of skilled workmen. Responding to this need many thousands of Aqueduct graduates moved directly into the all important task of national defense. This trained and ready supply of skilled men here in Southern California served as another inducement for the location of many defense industries in this region.

These men saved the plants many costly months of training and developing competent craftsmen in numerous lines of work. In their turn, the men themselves were prepared and equipped to command wages and salaries as skilled craftsmen at a time when such services were urgently needed.

It is now generally recognized that one of the nation's most important defense programs has been the work carried forward by the Navy on a number of islands in the Pacific Ocean. Representing the construction contractors and the Navy in the selection of engineers and craftsmen to rush forward the development of these strategic Pacific outposts has been Col. N. F. Jamieson, who was the District's Employment Officer during Aqueduct construction days. Many of the men dispatched to the distant Pacific islands to plan and build naval defense works were veterans of the Aqueduct job.

- DIRECTORY -

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Maintenance Engineer, Aqueduct and Transmission Lines.....	Robt. N. Allen
Softening Plant Engineer.....	W. W. Aultman

● MONTHLY REPORT ●

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a brief summary of some of the activities of the District as set forth in the monthly report of General Manager Julian Hinds, filed with the Board of Directors in November covering work done in October.

Construction

Distribution System—John C. Blystone completed all contract work on the Orange County Reservoir and practically completed the operator's cottage at Morris Reservoir. District forces installed control equipment and electric facilities in chlorination stations at both the above reservoirs.

Surveys—Profiles and property ties along a tentative location of the line, southerly from Santa Ana for the proposed extension of the Orange County feeder, were made by a survey crew.

Parker Power Plant—Walls of the superstructure are well under way and concrete is being placed in the intake structure in the forebay. Metal draft tube liners have been set in Units 1 and 2. The third turbine arrived and was unloaded.

Operation and Maintenance

General—Negotiations for the sale of the District's surplus power to be used in the production of magnesium at the plant near Boulder Dam were continued. Contract for the sale of Colorado River water to Camp Haan was executed between the District and the United States. Contract for the construction of the pipe line from the headworks at Lake Mathews was awarded to Morrison-Knudsen Company by the U. S. Army Quartermaster Department. U. S. Army Engineers occupied temporary quarters at Eagle Mountain and Hayfield for the purpose of making surveys of the reservoir area near Hayfield being used as a landing field for army planes.

Design—Review of plans and specifications of the U. S. Army and revision of details of the water supply system to serve Camp Haan were completed. Plans were prepared for the relocation of a portion of the Long Beach lateral made necessary by the installation of new culverts at the 223rd Street crossing of Nigger Slough flood control channel.

Parker Dam—Water surface elevation in Lake Havasu varied between 437.2 and 437.8. Inflow from the Bill Williams River was back to normal, averaging 23 c.f.s. Reclamation Bureau crews carried on routine operations and continued repairs to the spillway gates.

Main Aqueduct—Routine patrol of the main aqueduct and transmission and telephone lines was continued. Five telephone poles had to be replaced due to a

brush fire just east of Banning. Several insulators were replaced along the transmission line during a power outage on October 26 to make wiring changes at Boulder. Patrol roads were repaired along both telephone and transmission lines. Copper sulphate application, which greatly improved conditions in Gene and Copper Basin Reservoirs, was made using the launch from Lake Mathews.

Pumping Plants—Regular maintenance of camps and plants was carried on and except for a few hours at Intake no pumps were operated. Pumps at all plants were unwatered and inspected.

Distribution System—On October 31 storage in Lake Mathews was 86,899 acre feet as compared with 88,709 acre feet the previous month. Griffith Company completed the raising of manholes along the pipe line in Glendale necessitated by resurfacing of the street. The City of Fullerton installed valves and meter in the additional delivery structure in Fullerton hills. Routine sampling and analyses of water were continued.

Hydrographic—In preparation for the convening of the Colorado River Basin Committees, meetings of the Colorado River Board of California were held. The need for a stand-by connection to the Colorado River Aqueduct was pointed out in connection with defense activities in the San Diego area, at a drainage basin meeting for the south Pacific Coastal area called by the National Resources Planning Board.

Employment—Four classified positions were filled by transfer, 67 persons interviewed and 6 terminated during October. The net turnover for all positions for September, 1941, was 3.19 per cent, compared with 1.39 per cent for the same month in 1940.

Right of Way—From the groves at the softening plant 479 boxes of lemons were picked this month and 6 tons of walnuts gathered on the sludge disposal area.

Purchasing and Salvage—Cash sales during the month were active, amounting to \$21,302.30, making a total of salvage disbursements to date of \$1,674,926.35. The appraised value of salvage stock on hand to October 31 was \$542,617.44. Total expenditures covered by 279 purchase orders issued during the month were approximately \$19,970.00.

Soft Water Benefits Praised by Citizens

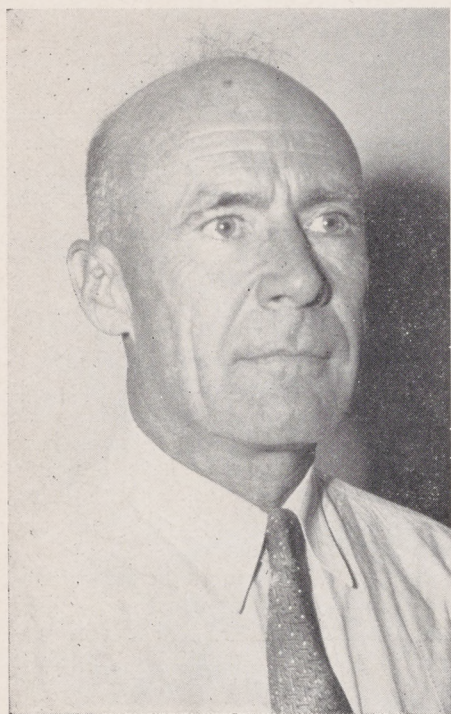
From Santa Monica, a District city receiving a 100 per cent supply of soft and filtered Aqueduct water, there continues to come expressions of approval and satisfaction from the general public. Most outspoken in their appreciation of the modern water supply are the women—the home managers.

The several months during which the soft and filtered water has been in use in Santa Monica apparently have convinced its domestic water users of the many advantages of this high quality of water in the home. One of the first benefits noted, of course, has been the marked saving in soap. There have been many, also, who have indicated the sheer pleasure of using the soft and sparkling clear water in the bath, the kitchen and the laundry.

Beverly Hills, one of the few Southern California cities which was being supplied with softened and filtered water prior to the coming of Aqueduct water, has experienced another kind of benefit since it has been using District water for a part of its supply. Use of the District water has resulted in a material saving in Beverly Hills water supply costs, it has been pointed out by Arthur Taylor, who represents Beverly Hills on the District Board of Directors and is also Consulting Engineer for that city's water department. During the months of September and October, Director Taylor has stated, his city realized a saving of many thousands of dollars through the use of Colorado River Aqueduct water as compared to the cost of local water production.

In other District cities where Aqueduct water has been in use since the system was placed in operation this year there have come countless expressions on the part of domestic consumers as to the superior quality of the new water supply. Home managers particularly have come to realize more and more that the exact amount of the monthly water bill represents only a part of the cost connected directly with the use of water. Standing high in these related water costs are the increased cost of soap that is required when hard water must be used, and the mounting costs of maintaining hot water heaters that are made constantly less effective through the use of hard water. All such costs are greatly reduced, it has been demonstrated, through the use of the soft and filtered water now being made available to the people residing within the Metropolitan Water District.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



E. A. Russell, Station Chief at Eagle and Hayfield pumping plants, and a veteran on the Aqueduct job. Recently Mr. Russell has taken on extra curricular duties as a NEWS correspondent.

Maurice D. Gunderson, President of the Gene Lake Club, has announced that his organization will stage its Christmas party for the children of the employees at Gene and Intake pumping plants on the evening of December 17. There will be plenty of fun for the adults as well. Admission will be five cents, together with a ten-cent present wrapped as a gift.

The U. S. Bureau of Mines representatives, who are carrying on exploratory work on the site of the Iron Chief ore deposits between Eagle and Iron Mountain pumping plants under the direction of W. D. McMillan, are making good progress. There are thirty-four Bureau of Mines men and eighteen contractor's men on the job.

Between November 1 and 27 there were 1,035 visitors conducted on inspection tours through the Softening and Filtration Plant, according to W. W. Aultman, Softening Plant Engineer. The visitors included three from Bavaria, two Turkish engineering students now at Cal-Tech, and one Cal-Tech engineering student from Thailand.

Aqueduct Temperatures

Oct. 16, 1941, to Nov. 15, 1941

	Max.	Min.
Gene Pumping Plant.....	92°	49°
Iron Mt. Pumping Plant....	92°	47°
Eagle Mt. Pumping Plant..	92°	47°
Banning	86°	38°
Lake Mathews	93°	46°

From the NEWS' Far Eastern correspondent comes the report that the Red Cross annual drive is now being carried forward by the wives and families of Aqueduct employees living in the pumping plant villages, and that the ladies of Parker Dam are cooperating with the women of Gene Village.

At Hayfield the Wind Gods went on a rampage Thanksgiving night and lifted portions of the roofs from six of the cottages, and swung the electric service wires together causing a momentary "black-out".

The ladies of Eagle and Hayfield pumping plant villages have organized a group as a subsidiary of the San Geronio Unit of the British War Relief Association of Southern California, and are now busily engaged in their work in support of this organization.



Out at the District's Aqueduct salvage depot in Banning we find A. E. McKenzie, General Storekeeper in charge of the Banning Yard, busily engaged in making available for defense work large quantities of materials used in building the aqueduct.



Standing guard with Controller J. M. Luney over the expenditures of the District is Miss Miriam Taylor, Secretary to the Controller.

On Friday, November 21, Mrs. T. T. Walsh, wife of the Field Superintendent of Pumping Plants, entertained the Woman's Club of Parker, Arizona. Important features of the entertainment were a showing of the District's film, "The Thirteen Golden Cities," and a tour of the Intake Pumping Plant.

Hayfield Village has invited Eagle Mountain Village to a dunking party on the evening of December 16. The NEWS correspondent offers no details, but it is presumed that the employees and families of a large water supply system should excel at a dunking party.

On November 26 an enthusiastic meeting was held at the Gene recreation center to consider the proposed Constitution and By-laws of the District Employees' Association. Some proposed changes are being submitted to the present Governing Board of the Los Angeles Office employees for their consideration.

Ralph W. Zook, after 8 years of service with the District in responsible clerical positions in the field, resigned the latter part of last month to accept a position with the California State Highway Department in Fresno.